GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3150
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
CO OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AT VILLAGE LEVELS
Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Pathak Shri Brajesh;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute Cooperative Committees/ Societies at village levels for allotment of small coal blocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to entrust these Committees/Societies to undertake mining works as well as sale of coal;

(d) the estimated quantity of coal being mined illegally in the country during the last two years and till date, year-wise;

(e) whether the Government has also identified coal depots which sell mined coal illegally to the villages;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons; and (g) the manner in which proposed Committees/Societies are likely to check illegal mining of coal in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (c) : The coal companies viz. CCL, BCCL and ECL have recently been asked to prepare one model pilot project each for considering involvement of co-operatives in coal mining in small isolated patches or mines not being operated by them because of economic unviability.

(d) : Illegal mining takes place both stealthily and clandestinely inside and outside leasehold areas of CIL subsidiaries and in some abandoned mines and scattered isolated patches. It is thus not possible to quantify the exact amount of coal which is extracted illegally during the last two years:
However, on the basis of raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, subsidiary wise quantity of coal seized from illegally worked out patches during the last two years is given below:

Company	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07(upto Dec`06)(Prov)
ECL	1331.97	2481.00	2539.00
BCCL	120.50	639.31	20.50
CCL	428.00	532.50	95.00
WCL	144.00	26.50	10.00
SECL	955.65	42.50	540.31
NEC	600.00	0.00	0.00
Total	3580.12	3721.81	3204.81

(e) & (f) : Law and Order being a State subject, State Governments have been requested from time to time to take effective measures against illegal mining and sale of illegally mined coal.

(g) : Illegal mining takes place in old abandoned mines and isolated small patches. Ef these could be allotted for mining by local cooperative societies, then to that extent illegal mining in them would be checked. This could also improve the socio-economic condition of people in the area by providing employment etc., thus obviating the need to resort to illegal mining.